

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security**

**United States
Coast Guard**



Office of Administrative Law Judges,
Seattle
United States Coast Guard

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5720
September 12, 2019

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: 56568-42315248@requests.muckrock.com

Matthew Hoppock
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 56568
411A Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA

RE: DHS FOIA APPEAL 2019-HQAP-00254

Dear Mr. Hoppock:

This letter is in response to your appeal of the Department of Homeland Security's response to your FOIA Request 2019-HQFO-01121, in which you sought records regarding e-mail messages from January 20, 2017 to the present containing the words "Zero Tolerance," "Family Separation," or "Separate Families" from the following custodians: Gene P. Hamilton, John Kelly (former DHS Secretary), and Kirstjen Nielsen. You challenged the adequacy of the Agency's search, as stated that a search of the Office of the Chief Information Officer found no responsive records.

Pursuant to a memorandum of agreement, the United States Coast Guard Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge is reviewing the FOIA appeals for the Department of Homeland Security General Counsel's office. Therefore, the Office of the Chief Administrative Law Judge will be rendering the official appeal decision on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security.

After a thorough review of the record, I am unable to make a determination regarding this appeal. I am remanding this request to DHS for supplementation within 30 days. Once I receive the supplemental information I require, I will issue a final determination on this appeal.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Heather L. MacClintock in blue ink.
Heather L. MacClintock
Attorney Advisor
United States Coast Guard